

Macbeth Unit Test Study Guide

Characters

Be able to identify characters by either quotes or descriptions.

Plot

Be able to recall the primary events in the plot, and to articulate the basic plot elements (setting, conflict, climax).

Terms

Be able to identify and explain the following terms:

Great Chain of Being, Paradox, Equivocation

Defining quotes

You will be asked to show your understanding of 2-4 major quotes addressed in class by identifying the following:

For each of the following you need to be able to explain (a) who is speaking, (b) to whom they are speaking, (c) what is happening in the play at this moment and (d) why the quote is significant.

Themes and Major Ideas

Consider the following to prepare for the 4 short answer questions you'll see on the exam:

1. Is Macbeth a fallen hero or an evil villain? Defend your answer with details from the play.
2. Condemn or justify Malcom and Donaldbain's choice to flee Scotland, considering their alternatives.
3. Will Malcom be a good leader? Use evidence from the play to support your response.
4. Discuss the role of equivocation in the play, considering which characters equivocate and how the equivocation effects both action and meaning in the play.
5. What does the play say about what it means to be a man? How does gender impact meaning in the play? Use specifics from the play to support your ideas.
6. Is Lady Macbeth purely evil, or is she a loving and devoted wife? Discuss her character, examining the complexities of her choices and actions.
7. Consider a possible theme of the play and discuss how it is expressed and developed.
8. Consider a possible motif or image in the play and discuss how it is expressed and developed.